

Application No.: 09/522,753

Attorney Docket No.: SALK1510-3

Filing Date: March 10, 2000

(088802-8704)

Response to Office Action (mailed January 14, 2003, Paper No. 27) faxed July 14, 2003

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Remarks

The present invention relates to co-repressor polypeptides that are capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors. Exemplary members of the silencing mediators of retinoic acid and thyroid hormone receptors (SMRT) are provided, including various isoforms of human, mouse and Drosophila SMRT co-repressors.

Claims 3-5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-25 and 38 remain currently pending. The present status of all claims in the application is provided in the listing of claims presented herein beginning on page 2.

The Examiner's observation that the signature of Inventor Chen is missing from the declaration is noted. This informality will be addressed in due course under separate cover.

With respect to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request clarification of the drawing requirements based on discrepancies noted between the Examiner's and the Draftsperson's reviews. Form PTO 948 enclosed with this Office Action (Paper No. 27) indicates that the Draftsperson has reviewed the original drawings submitted with the application filed on March 10, 2000. However, certain replacement figures have since been submitted and accepted by the Examiner (specifically, Figures 4, 6C and 12C were accepted in Paper No. 19 (as filed 4/10/02); and Figures 5A and 9 were accepted in this Office Action, Paper No. 27 (as filed 12/02/03)). Upon clarification of the status of each of the figures, Applicants will promptly submit any further changes to the drawings that may be required.

Applicants note the Examiner's objection to claims 4, 5, 9, 12 and 14 because of potentially redundant use of the SMRT terminology. Claims 4, 5, 9, 12 and 14 have been amended herein as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection to claims 4, 5, 9, 12 and 14.

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Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of all prior rejections of record in view of Applicants' preliminary amendment filed December 2, 2002.

In response to the Examiner's new rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for recitation of dependency from cancelled claim 7, claim 18 has been amended herein to depend from claim 5, as correctly noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In summary, claims 3-5, 9, 10, 12-24, 16, 17, 19-25 and 38 (as amended herein) are now in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner (see Office Action, Paper No. 27, at page 5, lines 8-9). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 (as amended herein) is also in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, prompt and favorable action on all claims is respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

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